

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00328 310631Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 PM-04 SP-02 CIAE-00

NSC-05 EUR-12 /064 W

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P R 301320Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3505

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0328

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, SU

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN CONCERN OVER SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA

REF: STATE 019584 AND 020213; KHARTOUM 317

1. DURING DISCUSSION NUMBER MATTERS WITH FONMIN MAKKAWI JAN 30, AMBASSADOR REFERRED RECENT SUDANESE/ETHIOPIAN TENSION. NOTING HE SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS, AMBASSADOR SAID THAT USG WISHED EXPRESS CONCERN AT THIS DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO NEIGHBORS AND HOPE THAT THEY CAN NOW BOTH BE CONCILIATORY AND MORE CAREFUL IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH EACH OTHER'S EXILED COMMUNITIES. AMBASSADOR SAID SIMILAR REPRESENTATIONS WERE BEING MADE BY OUR CHARGE IN ADDIS ABABA.

2. MAKKAWI REACTED WITH SOME PUZZLEMENT, ASKING WHETHER EPMG HAD OFFICIALLY COMPLAINED TO US RE ALLEGED IMPROPERITIES IN GOS HANDLING ETHIOPIAN EXILES HERE. MAKKAWI POINTEDLY NOTED THAT GOS HAD OFFICIALLY COMPLAINED TO US, AS PERMANENT MEMBER UNSC, RE EPMG ARMING OF EXILED ANSARS. AMBASSADOR REPLIED HE COULD NOT RECALL COMPARABLE OFFICIAL COMPLAINT TO US BY EPMG. LESS FORMAL ALLEGATIONS HAD, HOWEVER, OCCASIONALLY BEEN HEARD, AND PHRASEOLOGY WAS MEANT TO PROVIDE ELEMENT
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OF BALANCE IN OUR APPROACH. MAKKAWI THEN NOTED ETHIOPIAN EXILES HERE ARE OFFICIALLY SPONSORED BY UN AGENCY (UNHCR) WHEREAS HE CLAIMED ANSARS IN ETHIOPIA NO LONGER ARE. IN FACT, HE SAID SADIQ AL-MAHDI HAS URGED EPMG FACILITATE TRANSFER OF CAMPS TO LIBYA EVEN THOUGH ONLY GOS HAS LEGAL RIGHT APPEAL TO ANOTHER COUNTRY RE ANY OF ITS CITIZENS.

3. MAKKAWI THEN SAID THAT, WHILE SITUATION ON GROUND QUIET AND GOS DOING NOTHING WHICH WOULD JEOPARDIZE PEACE, TFERI BENTE IN JANUARY 29 PUBLIC STATEMENT HAD ATTACKED NIMEIRI AND CALLED FOR FRIENDLY FORCES TO RALLY TO EPMG AS "PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENT". AMBASSADOR RESPONDED HE HAD NOT YET SEEN THIS BUT THAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY EITHER SIDE AT THIS JUNCTURE SEEMED HARDLY CALCULATED IMPROVE THE ATMOPSHERE.

4. COMMENT. IN COMPARING GOS AND EPMG DEALINGS WITH RESPECTIVE EXILED COMMUNITIES, MAKKAWI OBVIOUSLY FELT GOS ATTITUDE MORE CORRECT. WHILE HE AND OTHER TOP SUDANESE BRASS ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH ALL-DAY SESSIONS AT SSU CONFERENCE, BENTE'S EVIDENTLY CRITICAL REMARKS COULD PROMPT SOME FORM OF OFFICIAL RESPONSE HERE.
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